

(Rev. 01-31-2003)

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Precedence:** IMMEDIATE

**Date:** 05/17/2004

**To:** Counterterrorism

**Attn:** SSA [REDACTED]

IA [REDACTED]

ITOS 1, CONUS 1,  
TEAM 16

DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 AUC/BAW/CPB/YMW  
ON 01-25-2007

SA [REDACTED]

PENTTBOMB TEAM

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Atlanta

**Attn:** SSA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

Los Angeles

**Attn:** SSA [REDACTED]

San Diego

**Attn:** SA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

IA [REDACTED]

**From:** San Diego

Sq. 21

**Contact:** [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** [REDACTED]

**Drafted By:** [REDACTED]

**Case ID #:** (U) [REDACTED] (S) [REDACTED] (Pending)

**Title:** (S) MIHDAR MOHAMMAD AL-MIHDAR ZAID,  
(U) A.K.A. MOHDAR MOHAMED ABDULLAH;  
IT-UBL/AL QAIDA  
OO:SD

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**Synopsis:** (U) Information [REDACTED] protect identity, provided to the FBI and DHS-ICE, San Diego, California. A summary of [REDACTED] previous contact with other law enforcement agencies. Based on the information mentioned below, approval was obtained to administer a polygraph examination for [REDACTED]. The results of the polygraph revealed [REDACTED] did not show deception, pending the review of FBIHQ.

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~~Derived From :~~ G-3

~~Declassify On:~~ X1

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To: Counterterrorism From: San Diego  
Re: ~~(S)~~ 315N-SD-64663 (Pending), 05/17/2004

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(U) Full Field Investigation Instituted: 05/22/2002

**Administrative:** (U) Attached for Atlanta are the DMV Photo's of

[redacted]  
is also attached FYI. Photo of [redacted] was not available. SAC San Diego approval was given for the Polygraph examination on 5/13/2004, via telcal.

**Details:** (U) [redacted] date of birth [redacted] is currently a prisoner at the CCA Immigration Detention Facility in San Diego, California, and awaiting deportation to Belize. Black mailed a letter to the Department of Homeland Security in San Diego advising he had information regarding captioned subject and others.

(U) On May 6, 2004, [redacted] was interviewed, based on the letter he sent, as a prisoner at the U.S. ICE-SAC Office, San Diego, California, by [redacted] FBI, and Steve Schultz, DHS-ICE. After advising the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, [redacted] voluntarily provided the information he possessed regarding Mohdar Abdullah:

(U) While at the CCA Detention Facility, San Diego, California, [redacted] became acquainted with several individuals, to include [redacted]

[redacted] was assigned to a cell room next to the above mentioned inmates in the isolation unit of the facility. Through daily contact, [redacted] began a friendship type relationship with Mohdar Abdullah and [redacted]. Because of this bond, Mohdar began telling [redacted] of his involvement with two of the hijackers who participated in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. [redacted] supported Mohdar's story by concurring when [redacted] repeated Mohdar's stories to [redacted]

(U) [redacted] also told [redacted] Mohdar knew what the intentions of the hijackers were prior to the attacks. This was independent of Mohdar's claims. [redacted] how he knew this, to which [redacted] stated the hijackers spent a lot of their time at the apartment shared by [redacted]

[redacted] and others. [redacted] felt the hijackers had used the apartment as a base for their terrorist activity. It should be noted, investigation previously identified the hijackers mentioned above as Nawaf Al Hamza and Khalid Al Midhar, who they were two of the hijackers on Flight 77 who participated in the terrorist attack into the Pentagon.

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(U) During the time period of September or October, 2003, that after close daily contact with the hijackers Mohdar became aware of the hijackers' intention to carry out an attack before the attacks occurred on September 11, 2001. The hijackers had also invited Mohdar to join them on the airplane and participate in the attack. Mohdar knew the attack would consist of an airplane flying into a building, however, Mohdar stated he did not know which building. Mohdar explained he initially met the hijackers at a Mosque in San Diego, California, in 2000. Mohdar did not give any further specific details regarding the above. [ ] did not give [ ] further specific details regarding the above.

(U) Mohdar explained to [ ] the motive why the hijackers carried out the terrorist attack against the people of the United States on September 11. The hijackers were Muslims who believed that the United States wished to take control over all the Muslim countries of the world. They believed that the people of the United States would then eliminate Islam from these countries and spread their Western culture to these countries. Mohdar told [ ] about the hatred the hijackers had against United States policy. [ ] said Mohdar would contradict himself by stating how messed up the people of the United States were and later state how much he, Mohdar, wished the United States would not deport him so he could remain living in the United States.

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(U) Mohdar told [ ] he first learned of the terrorist plot from the hijackers during a dinner at a restaurant in San Diego, California. The meeting took place after Mohdar and the hijackers attended prayer at a Mosque in San Diego. The Mosque was not identified. Mohdar and the hijackers were driven from the Mosque to the restaurant by [ ]. At the time, [ ] was [ ] in San Diego. [ ] was originally from Somalia, [ ] in that country. Mohdar saw that [ ] outside the Mosque and asked for the ride. [ ] agreed and took Mohdar and the hijackers to the restaurant.

(U) [ ] could not provide the name or the location for the restaurant where the meeting took place. Mohdar also mentioned that during the same meeting, the hijackers wanted Mohdar to take over the remainder of their lease at the hijackers apartment. Mohdar did not mention the name or location of the apartment to [ ] however, it was

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understood it was where the hijackers lived while in San Diego. Mohdar did not mention why the hijackers were moving out of the apartment early or how much time was left on the lease. Mohdar stated that [ ] had moved into the apartment.

(U) Mohdar also told [ ] he helped the hijackers obtain several false identification cards with false names from an unknown individual. Mohdar drove the hijackers from San Diego to an area in Los Angeles, California, near McArthur Park and a second location near Huntington Park where the unknown individual was selling the cards. Mohdar purchased approximately four or five fraudulent California Department of Motor Vehicle identification cards and gave the cards to the hijackers. No further information was given to [ ] about the above.

(U) Black learned that Mohdar had asked [ ] to provide him, Mohdar, with legal papers or letters stating the person named on the letter was from Somalia. As mentioned above, [ ]

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witnessed any of the people named in the letters. [ ] could not provide any further information about the letters or how Mohdar used the letters.

(U) [ ] stated Mohdar was born in Italy but raised in Yemen. Mohdar claimed to be a citizen of Italy. Mohdar also lived in Saudi Arabia and Algeria. Mohdar has always had the wish of becoming a citizen of Saudia Arabia. Note, prior investigation has shown that Mohdar was born in Yemen.

(U) After this initial interview of [ ] further checks revealed that on February 21, 2003, [ ] mailed a letter to the San Diego Division, while he was in custody at the San Diego Detention Center, stating he had premonitions about future terrorist attacks. [ ] had dreams about a battleship being sunk while there were lots of soldiers on board, sending panic throughout the country. At the same time that was happening, the nation's busiest airport, identified by [ ] as being in Memphis, was being targeted. [ ] emphasized that he has had this same dream on two occasions. No action was deemed necessary at that time.

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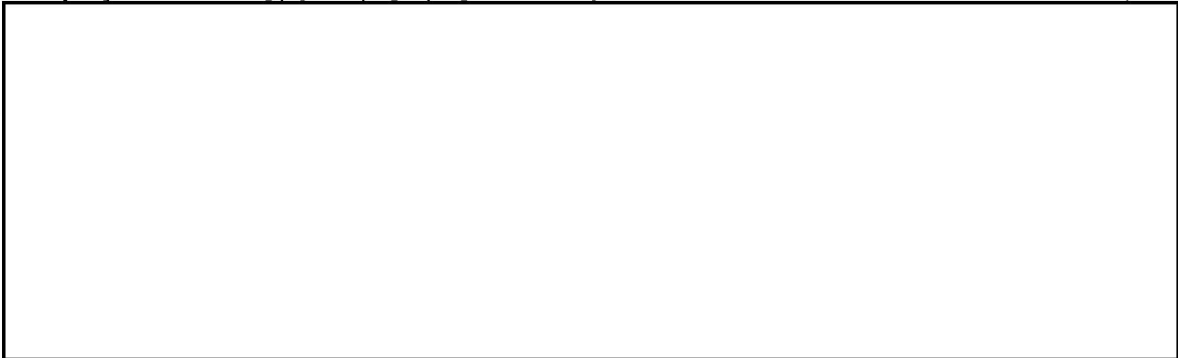
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(U) Checks also showed that [ ] has a criminal history ranging from bank robbery to sale and distribution of controlled substance. [ ] advised the interviewing agents he had previously



(U) Case agents requested personnel from the CCA Immigration Detention Facility to make contact with [ ] and ask him if he was amenable to an interview. [ ] responded positive to the request but wanted his attorney present. SA [ ] contacted [ ] attorney in which she said she was in agreement, however, she wanted to discuss the interview with her office. She works for the San Diego Public Defenders Office. SA [ ] was later notified that her office was not in agreement with case agents interviewing Abdoun. It should be noted that Mohdar Abdullah is also being represented by the San Diego Public Defenders Office. Abdullah's attorney is Jason Ser. The San Diego OUSA is inquiring as to a conflict of interest by the attorney's at the San Diego Public Defenders Office.

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(U) On May 14, 2004, a polygraph examination was administered to [ ] Refer to polygrapher's report. It was the opinion of the San Diego paleographer that [ ] did not show deception. The results will be evaluated by the polygraph unit at FBIHQ. After the polygraph examination, a follow up interview of [ ] was conducted by case agents. [ ] stated that in September or October 2003, Mohdar made the statement that he, Mohdar, knew there was going to be an attack on the United States three weeks before the attacks occurred. Mohdar made this statement in the presence of a close group of inmates while they were out in the day yard area of CCA. The unit Mohdar and the other inmates were in was the isolation unit, so they would routinely have the yard to themselves. Mohdar and the

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others felt comfortable saying anything while in the yard because there was no guards or other inmates in close proximity to overhear any of their conversations. [ ] said Mohdar made this statement of being forewarned three weeks in advance in the company of [ ]

[ ] and [ ]

(U) [ ] was re-interviewed as to how he obtained the above mentioned information [ ] and Mohdar was in [ ] Mohdar and [ ] began

[ ] Mohdar and [ ] and had numerous conversations, no particular dates provided, for approximately two years at the CCA. Mohdar, [ ] were not very open with information. The inmates built a rapport as a group before the details of Mohdar's participation came about through cell talks and talks out in the yard.

(U) It should be noted that [ ] does not know if the above mentioned statements and insinuations are true about Mohdar, but [ ] again confirmed that he was present when Mohdar made numerous statements, particular the statement of him being forewarned of the 9/11 attacks. [ ] could not judge if Mohdar made the statements in order to impress or elevate his status with other inmates. [ ] said that most of the statements were brought up in conversation by [ ] with Mohdar just acknowledging the statements. Mohdar never denied the statements about his involvement and knowledge of the attacks. Mohdar made the statement in front of [ ] that he, Mohdar, was not surprised when he saw the attacks taking place on television on September 11, 2001.

(U) [ ] that Mohdar was aware of the hijackers participating in the bombing of the USS Cole. [ ] did not hear this topic brought up again in the presence of Mohdar or others. [ ] that Mohdar learned of the USS Cole at the meeting mentioned above, where Mohdar had dinner with the hijackers at a restaurant in San Diego. However, during this re-interview, [ ] mentioned that there was a fourth person at the restaurant. The unknown person was described as an individual who was taking flight lessons in Arizona, no further information. [ ] did not provide any further information regarding Mohdar's knowledge of the bombing of the USS Cole. It should be noted previous investigation placed Hani Hanjour in San Diego to pick up Nawaf Al Hamzi in order to attend a flight school in Arizona. Hanjour was identified as another hijacker on Flight 77.

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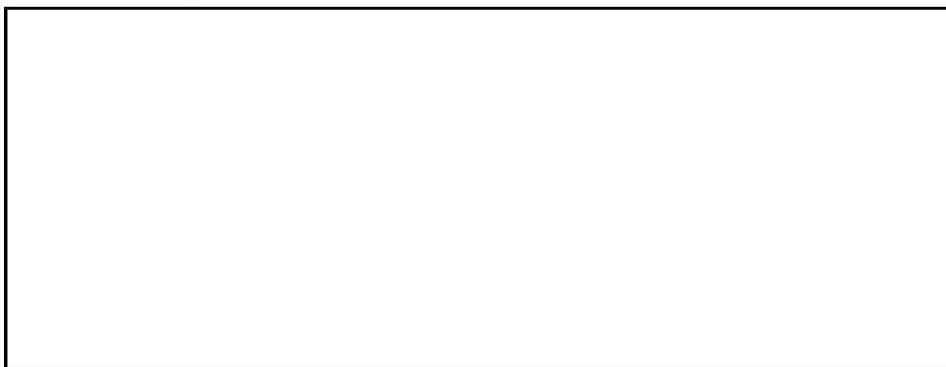
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(U) During the interview of [ ] he advised that a fellow inmate named [ ] was aware of the above information [ ] provided the case agents. [ ] believes [ ] would be able to validate [ ] information. A check with the DHS-ICE revealed that [ ] is currently an inmate at a U.S. Prison in Atlanta, Georgia.

(U) It should be noted the ICE records do not reveal [ ] was in the San Diego area at any time. Nevertheless [ ] stated [ ] was an inmate in the isolation unit at CCA during the time period of March/April 2003 to February 2004.

(U) Data base checks described [ ] as follows:

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Currently in Federal custody: U.S.P. Atlanta  
601 McDonald Boulevard  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Inmate number [ ]

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**LEAD(s):**

**Set Lead 1: (Info)**

COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON D.C.

(U) For information only.

**LEAD(s):**

**Set Lead 2: (Action)**

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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(U) Contact prison officials at U.S.P. Atlanta, 601 McDonald Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia, 30315, telephone number 404-635-5100, and arrange an interview of [redacted] Verify with [redacted] his time in the isolation unit at CCA in San Diego, California. Inquire as to his acquaintance with Mohdar Abdullah and others. Inquire if he can provide any information related to Mohdar's relationship with the two hijackers on Flight 77. Attempt to verify the statements mentioned above. Protect [redacted] relationship with FBI San Diego. Show photo's to [redacted] of Mohdar Abdullah [redacted]  
[redacted]

**LEAD(s):**

**Set Lead 3: (Info)**

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

(U) For information only.

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